TRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The aim of Revamped Public Distribution System (PDS) is to improve the reach of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in hilly, remote, inaccessible, tribal areas etc. where a substantial segment of poor population lives. The Central Government in consultation with the States, identified more than 1700 blocks covered by various area specific programmes such as Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) and Designated Hill Areas (DHA). The States/UTs agreed to implement various points of action under the RPDS which are :

(i) to open additional fair price shops in areas unserved|underserved;

(ii) to issue additional ration cards to population not so far covered;

(iii) to create/hire storage capacity and develop infrastructure for stocking of foodgrains in interior areas ;

(iv) to make suitable arrangements for delivery of PDS items at the doorsteps of Fair Price Shops (FPSs);

(v) to constitute/set up Vigilance Committees at FPS/Village and other levels for monitoring supply and availability of commodities ;

(vi) undertake distribution of additional commodities to the population in the area using he PDS outlets.

(b) and (c) The target and achievement of the various points of action as reported by the State Governments till 15-12-93 are as under :—

	Targets	Achievement
(i) Additional fair price shops opened	10580	107579
(ii) Additional ration cards issued	26,57,878	28,31,522
(iii) Storage Caapacity	413400 tonnes	168296 tonnes Created 55300 tonnes Hired 112996 tonnes
(iv) Doorstep delivery (Total number of FPS in identified ars	77204	
No. of FPSR covered under door-step delivery		56110

Most of the State Governments have reported that they have set up Vigilance Committees by involving local consumers, card holders for monitoring the supply and availability of essential commodities at FPS/Village level. They have also been reported to be distributing additional items such as tea, pulses, soaps, iodised salt, matches, exercise books etc. using the PDS outlets.

(d) Government decided to make available additional 2 million tonnes of foodgrains per annum or distribution in RPDS areas, the Central Issue Prices (CIP) of which is Rs. 50 per quintal lower than the CIP of foodgrains issued under normal PDS. Government has also liberalised financial assistance scheme from the year 1992-93 under which State Governments are provided assistance for purchase of mobile vans and for construction of godowns. The assistance comprises subsidy of 50% and loan component of 50%. In case of mobile van scheme, the per van assistance is given at the rate of Rs. 4 lakhs.

Consultations with the State Governments are regularly held to impress upon them the need to make available larger and more meaningful quantities to the needy and deserving sections.

PRICES OF ONIONS

2304. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the retail prices of onions during last six months, month-wise;

(b) what are the reasons for rise in price of Onions ;

(c) what is the percentage of Onions production exported to other countries ; and

(d) the details of steps taken to make available onions at a reasonable price to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed Sstatement. (See below)

(b) The reasons for rise in prices of onions are the scanty rains during June-July, 1993 and thereafter heavy unseasonal rains during October-November, 1993 in Maharashtra. Area and Yield of onion crops in Maharashtra, the major producing State declined considerably and resultantly onion prices shot up.

(c) About 8 to 10% of onion production in the country is exported.

(d) With a view to give relief to onion consumers of Delhi, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is supplying onions @ Rs. 5.50 per kg. to retailing agencies namely Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar, Delhi State Civil Supplies, Corporation. National Dairy Development Board and other Cooperative for sale through their outlets to the consumers @ Rs. 6 per kg. besides NAFED is also selling onions @ Rs. 6 per kg. through its static outlits at Krishi Bhavan, NAFED Ashram Chowk, Lawrence road, NCERT Mehrauli Road and also by mobile vans. The other State Governments have also been requested to adopt this type of arrangement in their respective States/ UTs.

STATEMENT

Month-and Retail Prices of Onions at selected centres

Centre	July	August	September	October	November	December (as on) 8-12-93)
Delhi	3.00	4.00	7.00	8.00	12.00	12.00
Lucknow	2.25	2.50	4.00	5.50	8.00	12.00
Ahmedabad	5.00	6.60	6.00	6.50	15.00	12.00
Bombay	3.00	3.00	7.00	7.00	10.00	11.00
Bhubaneshwar	3.60	4.20	6.00	7.00	7.00	11.00
Calcutta	3.30	4.00	6.00	7.00	10.50	11.00
Hyderabad	2.50	3.00	3.50	5.00	8.50	7.50
Madras	2.50	2.50	5.00	5.00	7.00	10.00
Bangalore	2.40	3.00	5.00	5.00	6.40	11.00
Trivandrum	6.00	4.30	4.80	7.00	10.00	10.70

SOURCE : State Government/UTs Civil Supplies Departments.